

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, December 28. 1706.

IN my last I gave you several Instances of the *Scots*, not only desiring an Union, but an incorporate Union; and one would think, there should need nothing to continue them of that Mind; but this is the Day of some Peoples Blindness, and who shall open their Eyes?

It is plain, no other Union than this is practicable between the Nations; they talk of a Federal Union, and our Author Mr. H—s says, he can offer one, but he reserves it *in petto*. . . . The Wisdom of both Nations have determin'd this to be not the best, but the only Foot to make a Treaty upon; And I must own, upon the strictest Examination I can make, I see neither *Society*, Advantage or Satisfaction in any of their other Proposals, to either Nation.

Mr. H—s gives us a List, as he calls it,

of one and thirty *interfering Interests*, in Opposition to the Enquirer's saying, *We should have but one Interest*.

To me this is most strange Cavilling: I'll allow him different Interests, and yet I may affirm for the other side, there may be but one National Interest: And I can give him innumerable *interfering Interests* in one Part of *England*, with another, and yet *England* may be said to have but one National Interest, which the whole is subservient to.

Now, 'tis a Question, I have often put in private Conversation, and could never yet get an Answer to——Is there any one National Interest in *England* or in *Scotland*, that is inconsistent with another National Interest in the other Kingdom, and *that being so*, makes the Union necessarily impracticable,

practicable, without one Side or other being oppress'd ?

Let me pursue this Enquiry, for much will depend upon it to dissolve the Probabilities assum'd by these Authors, against the Parliament of *Britain* preserving the Union.

Pray, Gentlemen, let me enquire into this Head, why the Parliament of *Britain* should oppress *Scotland*, and in what? Which are the National Interests, that will clath and prompt the Parliament to oppress them?

The Church-Interests cannot be the thing, for they are respectively secur'd, or will be so in the Body of the Treaty, which Treaty, as before, the Parliament cannot touch, nor put a Question about.

As to the Laws, they are reserv'd in each Country, and the Courts of Justice already settled, are to remain so.

To say, our *English* Lawyers will be for bringing up their Suits at Law to *London*, to bring them Business, is an Absurdity in the Nature of it, and not worth Notice. 'Tis plain, the Law in *England* is not brought to the Lawyers, but the Lawyers are fain to turn Itinerant, and ride a Cause-jobbing over the whole Nation; the Judges go Circuits, and Justice is carried Home to every Man's Door; no Man is found to sue or be sued, plead or be impleaded, but in the County where he lives; no Man shall be tried for Murther, but in the County where the Fact was committed. And a famous Robber not 6 Months since, obtaining to be tried at the *Old-Baily*, was found Guilty of the Robbery, but as committed in the County of *Essex*, and escap'd the Gallows by it, because a Jury in *Middlesex* could not condemn him for a Crime committed out of the County; and they could not carry him down to *Essex*, because the Law says, *No Man shall be tried twice for the same Fact*.

Shall then the *English* in meet Speech to the *Scots* alter the whole Scheme of Justice? And when the Judges go down quite to *New-Castle* to do Justice, fetch the *Scots* up to *London* on Purpose to be vexatious? What Sort of Suggestions are these? At least, were they entirely subjected, we should send our Judges to their several Towns, as in *England*, or make Judges on

Purpose for them, as in *Wales*. But *England* is fully pleas'd to reserve to them all their Courts and Methods of Justice, and it can never be her National Interest to alter it.

Where then are these interfering Interests? They must lye in Trade sure, or I know not where we shall find them: And I would be glad to know of the wisest Objector, in what Part of Trade *England* and *Scotland* can have, as Nations, any interfering Interests? I know, in *England* 'tis objected, the *Scots* will run into our Woollen Manufactures, and so I believe, they will to buy them: But I appeal to common Knowledge, whether there is in *Scotland* the least Propensity that Way, I mean as to general Trade?

And the Reason is plain, they have no Occasion for it, if they can fall in to make their own Cloaths well and good, and they will never trouble themselves so much as to do that, for they have better things before them.

Their Linnen Manufacture on Shoar, their Fishing at Sea, and their Plantation Trade beyond Sea, are Oceans of Wealth they will swim in, and cannot launch out too far; and in none of these will they interfere with *England*, or *England* with them.

England will help them in all, and their Wealth will circulate thro' our Hands—We immediately lose 170000 *l. per Annum* by them in one Article, the Duty upon their Linnen, they carry all their Linnen into our Ports free, when all other Linnen pays 10. 12. 16 *l. per Cent* Duty; and 'tis their own Fault, if their Linnen Trade does not employ the whole Kingdom, as the Woollen Trade does *England*.

Not a Nation in the World imports so much Linnen of all Sorts, as *England*; and if *Scotland* fall heartily to work upon it, and by Directions learn to imitate the several Kinds now in Use, the *Dutch* may have other Reasons to be against the Union, than the Damage of their Fishery; *Scotland* may with Ease vent a Million *per Annum* in *England* in their Linnen Manufacture.

But the *British* Parliament may renew the Duty, say the same Gentlemen Objectors.

That

That cannot be without Breach of the Union, for all Customs are to be taken off between the two Nations, and there is to be a free Communication of Trade: If therefore a Tax be laid on Linnen, it must be upon all Linnen made in *England*; for it was never known, that any Manufacture was tax'd in one Place of the same Nation, and let free in another.

I cannot imagine therefore one Article, in which the General Interest of the two Kingdoms can clash with one another, and I

would be glad to have any of the Gentlemen on the other side tell us any one Head of Trade, in which it is morally probable, the *English* and *Scots* should disagree, interfere, or be jealous of one another. If then their Interest agree, how can they differ? Interest reconciles all the Homies in the World; and no Nations but ours act against their Interest. If it be our mutual Interest to agree, I cannot see, why we should differ?

MISCELLANEA.

I Have, I hope, stated the Case right between the Government of *Scotland*, and the People there; and really I have done it, not in Compliment to the Government at all, they need none of my Praises, nor have I any Interest to pursue with them—But I do it, *besides paying a Debt to Justice*, by Way of Instruction to our unhappy Gentlemen; who promise themselves great things from the approaching Confusions in *Scotland*.

Don't deceive your selves, Gentlemen, *Scotland* is not in so weak a Condition as you may imagine; the Government there has not yet call'd out for Help, and I dare say, need not go over their own Borders for Assistance in this Case; and I'll explain my self to your Satisfaction.

You have heard, I know, of great Confusions, and greater perhaps than are true, Addresses from all Parts, some with six Hands, eight, eleven, and the like; but magnified by that time they come to you, to so many thousands; and mighty things are made of this.

But pray, Gentlemen, will you consider one thing, how comes there to be a Majority in that Kingdom against the Union, or as *some will have it*, all the Kingdom bent against it, and yet at the same time a Majority in the Parliament, and in every State of Parliament *for it*; this must have some Riddle in it, and if you please, I'll explain it.

Scotland, all Men know, is really divided; just as the Men of Interest and Power are divided, and the Heads of Families there lead and command their Vassals, perhaps too easily to the Party they espouse; to illustrate this, I'll tell you a short Story.

In the late War, when the Right Honourable the present Earl of *Sutherland*, one of the most *Ancient* Peers of *Scotland*, led a Regiment of *Northern Highland-men*, in Review before the late King *William*, and perhaps as fine a Regiment as has been seen; his Majesty exceedingly pleas'd with the rugged Countenances, large, well-shap'd Persons, their little Bonnets, naked Knees, and extraordinary Figure of the Men being in their *Highland* Habits after having thank'd his Lordship for bringing so fine a Regiment into his Service, among a great many fine things, his Majesty was pleas'd to say to the great Officers that were with him, this was remarkable, *His sons and his Subjects*, said the King speaking of his Lordship, *they are all his own Subjects*.

I mention this for the following Reason—Were *Scotland*, which God forbid, to come to Blows about this Union, and the Noblemen and Gentlemen that appear for it now in the House, brought to appear in the Field for it, and draw out their Strength, *their Subjects*, as his Majesty call'd them, or *their Vassals* to speak in the Language of the Country, I appeal to the Gentlemen of *Scotland*, who are on the other side, whether